CONTACTS

Ash Grove Cement West Inc.
Jack Yeates
P.O. Box 126, Blubber Bay, B.C., V0W 1E0
Tel: (604) 486-7421

Continental Lime Ltd.
J.M. Jordon
P.O. Box 187, Cache Creek, B.C., V0K 1H0
Tel: (604) 457-6291

Holnam West Materials Ltd.
Peter Stiles
Vananda, B.C.
Tel: (604) 486-7627

Imperial Limestone Ltd.
Edward Liebich
Vananda, B.C.
Tel: (604) 486-7623

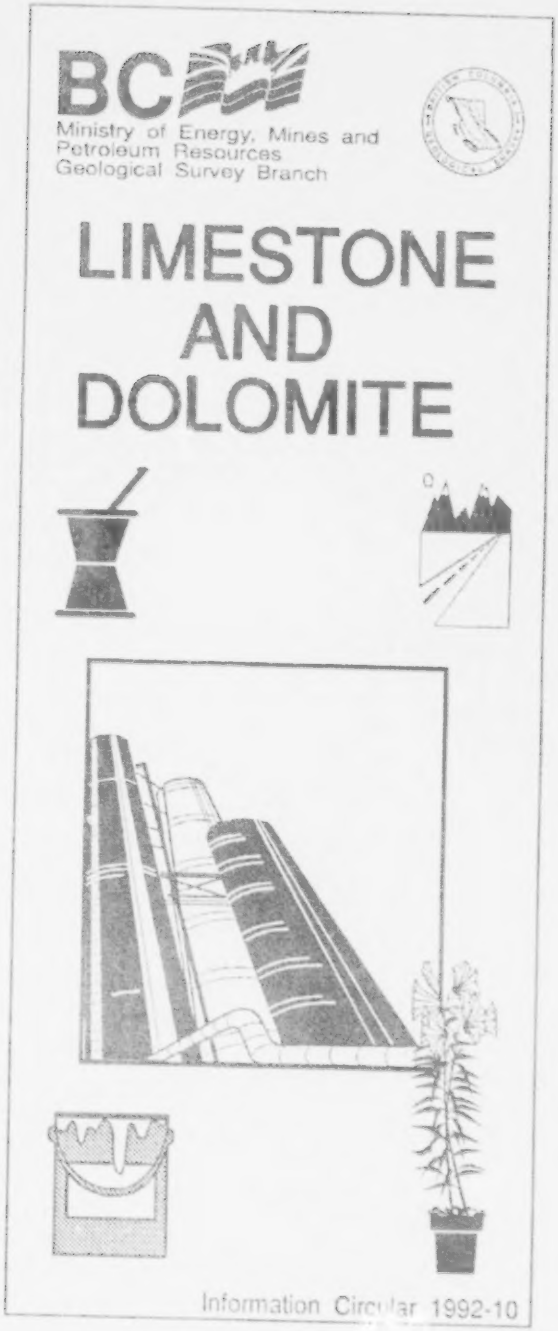
Lafarge Canada Inc.
John Wong
RR 2, Site 12, Comp. 1, Kamloops, B.C., V2C 2J3
Tel: (604) 573-3211

International Marble and Stone Company Ltd.
Don Gunning
19287 98A Avenue, Surrey, B.C.
Tel: (604) 888-3848

Mighty White Dolomite Ltd.
Paul Chaput
P.O. Box 10, Rock Creek, B.C., V0H 1Y0
Tel: (604) 446-2450

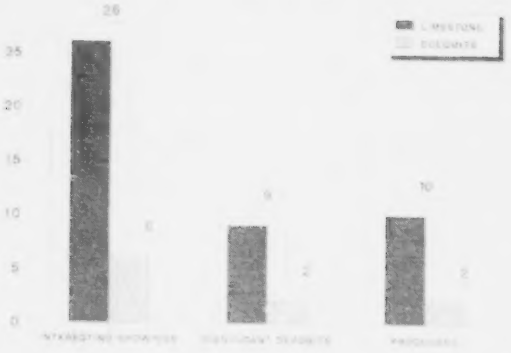
Star Equipment Ltd. (North Rock Industries Ltd.)
Jim Jamieson
3905 - 18th Avenue, Prince George, B.C., V2N 1B2
Tel: (604) 561-2270

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
Geological Survey Branch, Industrial Minerals Unit
553 Superior St, Victoria, B.C., V8V 1X4
Tel: (604) 356-2846



INVENTORY/RESOURCES

- British Columbia's abundance of carbonate rock ranges in composition from high-calcium limestone (at least 95% $CaCO_3$) to high-magnesium dolomite (at least 18% MgO).
- Significant deposits of white limestone and dolomite are located in north-trending belts along the coast, in the southern interior, and of the Rocky Mountains.
- Dolomite occurs primarily in the Rocky Mountains with minor occurrences elsewhere.
- There are 373 limestone and 39 dolomite occurrences documented in the province. Analytical data exists for 249 occurrences: 109 are high-Ca limestones and 23 are high-Mg dolomites.



RESERVES

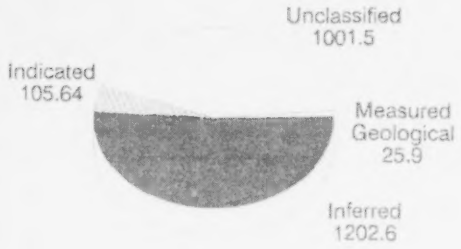
- Documented reserves total 2.3 billion tonnes of limestone and 47.35 million tonnes of dolomite and including the following prospects:
  - Holberg Inlet deposit
    - 236 million tonnes limestone.
  - Aristazabal Island deposit
    - 90 million tonnes white limestone.
  - Kelley Lake deposit
    - 38.1 million tonnes limestone.
  - Mount Palsson deposit
    - 2.14 million tonnes limestone.
  - Sechelt dolomite deposit
    - 17.5 million tonnes dolomite.

PRODUCTION

- In British Columbia 5.2 million tonnes of limestone and less than 100 000 tonnes of dolomite are mined annually.
- Eighty-five per cent of B.C.'s limestone production (about 4.42 million tonnes), comes from three major quarries on Texada Island on British Columbia's southwestern coast.
- Six small operations, scattered throughout Vancouver Island, and southern and central British Columbia, produce high-calcium limestone for cement, lime and pulp manufacturing and white limestone for fillers and pigments.
- White dolomite, mined in southeastern British Columbia (Crawford & Rock Creeks), is used in agricultural, decorative and pigment applications.

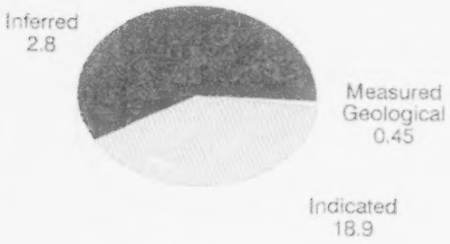
LIMESTONE RESERVES

(million tonnes - variable grade)



DOLOMITE RESERVES

(million tonnes - variable grade)



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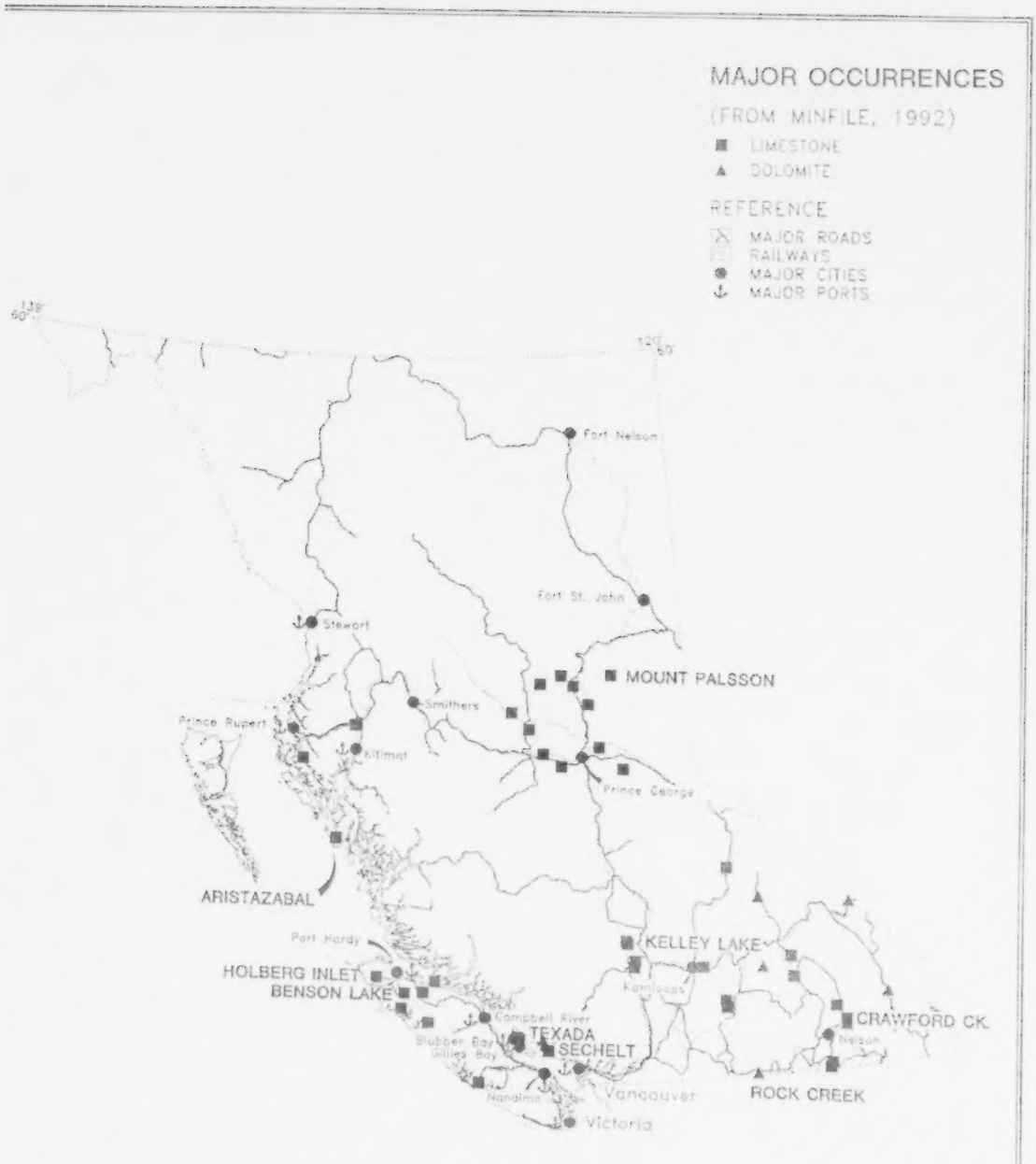
MARKETS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- There are many opportunities in British Columbia to develop new deposits, and to purchase high quality limestone and dolomite.
- Limestone produced in British Columbia primarily supplies three local cement plants, two lime plants and a number of kraft pulp mills scattered throughout the province.
- These operations consumed 53% of B.C.'s 1990 limestone production; 32% was exported to Washington and Oregon for cement, lime and glass manufacturing and in fillers and pigments.
- Limestone is crushed and ground for various domestic uses such as riprap, aggregate, fillers, pigments and soil conditioners.
- Demand for B.C.'s limestone expanded by 33% between 1986 and 1990; exports increased by 28%.
- The cement sector (domestic and foreign), with an increase of 58% over the same five years, had the highest increase in consumption.
- The recent completion of Ash Grove Cement's new cement plant in Seattle, Washington ensures continued growth in the cement sector.
- Increased limestone consumption may result from the increased capacity of kraft pulp manufacturing in western Canada.
- Limestone is ideal for treating various effluents from metallic mines. Increased consumption could result from environmental concerns.
- White limestone may be in demand as a coating and filler in paper in alkali (acid-free) processes.
- Dolomite consumption is limited to crushed and ground white dolomite used for fillers (whiting), cultured marble, agricultural lime, decorative aggregate and stucco dash. Demand is expected to remain steady in southern British Columbia and Alberta.
- Dolomite could also be utilized in controlling sulphur emissions from coal fired electrical generating plants.



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